

Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership (APNEP)
March 2021

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Albemarle - Pamlico

National Estuary Partnership

Sound Stories



March 2021



It's been over a year since our team here at APNEP went fully virtual due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While we look forward to being back in-person once again, we've been so impressed by the adaptability of our partners during these times. From [Shad in the Classroom's interview series with diverse aquatic biologists](#) to the [Teacher Institute's virtual summer programming](#), our partners throughout the watershed have found new and innovative ways to continue working towards protecting the Albemarle-Pamlico estuary in 2020 and 2021.

While we will all miss former NC Department of Environmental Quality Secretary Michael Regan's leadership, we wish him all the best in his [new position as EPA Administrator](#). We're also excited to welcome [Dionne Delli-Gatti](#) as NC DEQ Secretary and look forward to continuing to collaborate with our host agency in future watershed protection efforts!

Sincerely,
Dr. Bill Crowell
APNEP Director

APNEP News



News Spreads of APNEP Seagrass Study Findings

Last month, APNEP's [Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Team](#) published a [report](#) discussing an observed decline in the extent of the estuary's high salinity seagrasses. Throughout March we were excited to see the word get out about these important findings through outlets such as [Coastal Review Online](#), [WUNC](#), and [WITN](#). APNEP and our partners will be continuing to build on these data; another set of aerial flights to map seagrasses in the estuary is scheduled for later this spring and an APNEP-funded economic valuation study of submerged aquatic vegetation in the Albemarle-Pamlico estuarine system will be published in the next few months. Stay tuned!

Learn more about APNEP's efforts to protect SAV



APNEP-Sea Grant Fellow Featured in *Coastwatch* magazine

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Albemarle Sound, [has been featured](#) in the latest issue of NC Sea Grant's *Coastwatch* magazine. You can also catch Haley on March 31st as the speaker for the NC Office of Environmental Education's Lunchtime Discovery Talk Series. Her talk, "Are Toxic Cyanobacteria in the Air We Breathe?", will be shared [via livestream](#) at 12pm on 3/31 as well as recorded for later viewing.

[Read about Haley's research in Coastwatch magazine](#)



New National Estuary Program Video Released

Did you know that APNEP is part of the [EPA's National Estuary Program](#)? The NEP has been protecting and restoring Congressionally-designated estuaries of national significance since it was created in 1987. Collectively, the 28 NEPs and local partners turn every \$1 in federal funding into \$19 of research, restoration, and environmental education to protect and improve coastal environments, communities, and economies. Check out this new video about the National Estuary Program, created by the [Coastland & Heartland National Estuary Partnership](#), to learn more!

[Watch the video](#)

Meeting Summaries

- **APNEP Leadership Council Meeting (March 11th)** - At March's [Leadership](#)

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Partnership's plans for EELT and received feedback on the forthcoming A-NEP Monitoring Plan.

- **NC Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan Steering Committee Meeting (March 10th)** - The [NCANSMP Steering Committee](#) met to discuss the [recent discovery](#) of zebra mussels, which are invasive in North Carolina, within commercially-available aquarium moss balls.



Upcoming Events & Meetings

All meetings associated with APNEP's committees, Action Teams, and Monitoring & Assessment Teams are free and open to the public. For more information, please contact apnep@ncdenr.gov.

- **NC DEQ Nutrient Criteria Development Plan Scientific Advisory Council Meeting** | March 31st, 9:00 AM - 12:00PM ([Details](#))
- **APNEP High-Salinity Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Monitoring Subgroup Meeting** | March 31st (contact apnep@ncdenr.gov for details)
- **Protecting God's Coastal Creation Virtual Workshop featuring the NC Coastal Habitat Protection Plan** | April 8th, 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM ([Register here](#))
- **Coastal Habitat Protection Plan Steering Committee Meeting** | April 20th, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (contact apnep@ncdenr.gov for details)

Due to COVID-19, many of APNEP's scheduled meetings have been rescheduled or moved online. [Visit our website](#) for up-to-date information.

Current Grant Opportunities

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- Ongoing: [NC Sea Grant Minigrants Program](#)

Grant details

Partner Spotlight

Coastal Studies Institute Launches New Video Series



[The Coastal Studies Institute](#) on the Outer Banks has launched a new video series, "Outer Banks Ecosystems", on their Youtube Channel! The [first video](#) is now online - check it to learn about the importance of the Albemarle-Pamlico estuarine system and hear from local scientists.

Watch the video

What We're Reading

- [Project to Remove Abandoned Boats Begins](#) (*Coastal Review Online*)
- [Seagrass is a Vital Weapon Against Climate Change, but We're Killing It](#) (Huffington Post)
- [Oyster Reef Construction Shows Huge Success](#) (PBS North Carolina)
- [Zebra Mussels Threaten NC Waterways](#) (Carolina Public Press)



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